[CONFIDENTIAL.] [No. 38 of 1875.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 4th September 1875.

A correspondent of the *Rungpore Dik Prakásh* directs the attention of the authorities to the prevalence of gambling in Belká Nawábgunge in the district of Rungpore. The evil has reached an alarming height, and the inhabitants are gradually impoverished. (Rungpore Dik Prakash, August 12th, 1875.)

2. The *Moorshedabad Patriká* of the 20th August imagines, in reference to the inconvenience to which the public are subjected, from the frequent mistakes of postal officers in the despatch of letters, that it may be due to the fact that there are many villages in different districts bearing the same name. The mistakes arising from this cause may be easily remedied by naming the district as well as the village in the address. But this cannot be done unless Government remits the extra charge now realized from addressees when their letters, instead of being directly sent to them, are "re-directed" from the District Post Office. (Moorshedabad Patrika, August 20th, 1875.)

3. The same paper regrets that, having from time to time made reductions in the pension first allowed to the Nawab Nazim of Moorshedabad, Government appears to be going further still, and has appointed Commissioners to draw up a list of all his landed property and jewels. Is this with the view of ultimately taking possession of them as State property? This would be unfair, for these in strictness belong to him. Government of course did well in passing a law to liquidate his debts and reduce his allowance to meet these demands, but to take from him his private property will place him in an extremely unenviable position. He is not extravagant in his expenditure; his wants are multiplied on account of the large number of his dependents. The Government is besought to consider his case with calmness and leniency. (Moorshedabad Patrika.)

4. The *Rájsháhye Samáchár* of the 20th August, in a lengthy editorial, dwells on the poverty of the country and the gloomy future that awaits it. By far the great majority of the people have but a small income, on which they manage to live with great difficulty. The higher appointments under Government have been all monopolized by Englishmen. There was an intention to bestow them on natives at a time when they did not seek them, and were not fit for them. But now, when by their education they are competent to discharge public duties, they cry for them in vain. Natives have no admission into the Army. In the engineering branch of the public service, a few only have succeeded in securing some of the subordinate posts. An invidious distinction is made between them and Englishmen. The establishment of Cooper's Hill College at the expense of the Indian Government has at last barred natives from access to this branch of the service. The examinations of candidates for the Indian medical and engineering services are held in England to their great inconvenience. (Rajshahye Samachar, August 20th, 1875.)

The object of this, moreover, is hardly intelligible, considering that men thus trained in a foreign country are generally ignorant of the character of the natives, their wants, and their grievances. There are numerous obstacles placed in the way of their entering the Civil Service. The profession of law is overcrowded. While Englishmen and Eurasians are freely employed by Government, natives are reproached for an excessive fondness for service. In commerce they cannot compete with European merchants. Government has passed the recent Tariff Act for the purpose of gratifying the Manchester trade, and strangling the rising cloth-industry of India. Every way to wealth being thus closed to us, and it being useless to expect any thing to be done for the good of the country which may affect Manchester, we must now trust to our own resources and powers. The zemindars, and all others who enjoy a large income, are earnestly besought to set up mills and undertake such speculations as may promote the wealth of the country, and enable the people to earn the means of comfortable subsistence.

UCHIT BAKTA, August 22nd, 1875.

5. Adverting to the letter of a correspondent, which is not published, the *Uchit Baktá* of the 22nd August remarks that, if the facts therein related are correct, the oppressions of the indigo-planters cannot be said to have ceased. Government is besought to make enquiries.

SAPTAHIK SAMACHAR, August 24th, 1875.

6. Adverting to the new section added to the Abkaree Bill, the *Sáptáhik Samáchár* of the 24th August observes: Instead of being a beneficial measure, this section will enable the police to practise a great amount of oppression on the owners of dispensaries. We had expected that the legislature would only seek to provide against the secret purchase of spirituous liquors from dispensaries by young persons for other than medicinal purposes; but the Council having overlooked our request, has unnecessarily added to the stringency of the law, and only widened the door of gain to the police and the abkaree officers.

SAPTAHIK SAMACHAR.

7. In his last administration report, says the same paper, on the Burdwan division, Mr. Buckland asks Government to help the *tusser-weavers* of his division, who have sunk into extreme poverty. But Government, we are sure, will never do it, though it would not be unwilling to help Manchester if she needed any help. Any favor to the weavers of Bengal will doubtless interfere with "free-trade principles."

SAPTAHIK SAMACHAR.

8. The same paper writes the following in connection with the imprisonment of a Travancore Prince, who was almost persuaded to embrace Christianity by Miss Ballard, the sister of the Resident. We have grave fears that the Baroda drama will be acted over again in Travancore. The British Government is no longer what it once was. There was a time when Christian missionaries were not allowed to settle in its dominions. Its power had not then been fully established in the country. Though the Mahomedans had lost all their power and prestige, still, backed by the people, they did not fail to inspire in its mind a wholesome fear. The power of the Mahrattas had not then been crushed. But those days of misfortune have now passed away. The British power is now paramount from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin, and the missionaries now go about the country much respected. In the council-chamber, in the courts of law, in the senate house of the university, everywhere the influence of the missionaries is felt. The European lady, who frequents the zenana under pretence of teaching, but really for preaching the Gospel, receives aid from Government. The conversion of the ignorant Sonthal lads is also greatly due to the same cause. We are not, however, sure whether the Resident at Travancore, if he had

really succeeded through his sister in converting the Princes of that State, would have found favor with Government.

9. The *Hindu Ranjiká* of the 27th August labors to show that it is extremely unfair to charge the zemindars as being the cause of the poverty of the tenantry. The position of the latter has within the last few years greatly improved. The impartial administration of law by Government has placed them on a footing of equality with their landlords, and a love of liberty and a corresponding spirit of independence are gradually growing among them. The zemindars can no longer levy any illegal cesses nor practise oppressions. Though we are not opposed to the advancement of the laboring classes, still we do not see how Government can succeed in improving their position by imparting to them, as is done in the Campbell páthsálás, a shallow and superficial education, which merely ends in making them averse to all manual work and their ancestral professions. The zemindars are not responsible for the education of their tenantry; all that they are bound to do is to promote agriculture and improvement of their own estates. They would be placing serious obstacles in the way of such improvement by any eagerness on their part to impart the advantages of this so-called education to their tenantry. HINDU RANJIKA, August 27th, 1875.

10. The *Dacca Darshak* of the 26th August earnestly beseeches His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to attend to the miserable condition of the present Sanskrit Toles, and use means to improve them. The study of the Sanskrit language is best carried on in these institutions. DACCA DARSHAK, August 26th, 1875.

11. Adverting to the importance of learning accounts, especially in connection with the affairs of everyday life, the same paper asks Government to substitute the "Zemindari and Mahájani Accounts" for the "Elements of Botany" in the scholarship examinations. DACCA DARSHAK.

12. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká* of the 26th August laments the decline of the natives of India as a nation. This is due to their having come in contact with the British, a wealthier and more powerful race than themselves. It is a law of nature that a weaker race cannot flourish by the side of a stronger. This has been seen in America and Australia; and we fear the case is the same with India. The English rule has brought security of life and property. The benefits of a civilized Government, of European science and learning, and of an extensive commerce, are enjoyed. But even with all this they are not happy, and not well. Their national vitality has almost gone. If their decline proceeds at this rate, possibly the Hindu race will in no long time totally vanish from the face of the earth. To stimulate this vitality, the people should attend to the improvement of their minds and bodies as well as the wealth of the country. All that take an interest in its welfare are besought to consider the subject with deliberation and all due earnestness. AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, August 26th, 1875.

13. The same paper remarks, in reference to the Reformatory Schools' Bill, that much good will be done if its provisions be duly carried out. The natives of this country are not naturally prone to crime, and if Government, instead of pursuing a rigorous system of jail discipline, which it has hitherto done, had adopted a milder method, and brought up the juvenile criminals in reformatories, the number of crimes would doubtless have been considerably reduced by this time. The charge of maintaining the reformatories, which are but a kind of jails, should be borne by Government, and not thrown upon the municipalities. Though the rule requiring the guardians of these youthful culprits to pay the expenses of the establishment be sound AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA.

in principle, still there is reason to fear that it will press heavily on poor parents. The period of tutelage should be extended to 18 years, for habits are not completely formed by the end of the sixteenth year. It would be better if this law were made wider in its application, and if it had been provided that crimes committed through poverty or ignorance should be made punishable for the first time by confinement in a reformatory.

EDUCATION GAZETTE, August 27th, 1875.

14. The *Education Gazette* of the 27th August remarks that as a loyal race, and famed for our devotion to princes, we should not be slow to accord a becoming reception to the Prince of Wales when he visits India. The rate-payers of Calcutta will never object to spend a portion of their municipal funds for this loyal and proper purpose.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

15. A correspondent of the same paper asks Government to appoint *Algebra* as one of the subjects in mathematics in the Vernacular Scholarship examination. It is greatly needed.

BHARAT SANGSKARAK, August 27th, 1875.

16. The *Bhárat Sangskárak* of the 27th August thanks Government for framing the Reformatory Schools' Bill. This will do an immense good to the country, and will lead to a reformation of the present system of jail discipline. Some of the provisions, however, as laid down in the Bill, need amendment. We do not see the meaning of the rule that offenders above the age of 14 years shall not be confined in reformatories. Again, it seems that criminals above 12 years of age must commit some crime punishable with transportation, or of similar gravity, before they can be placed here; and offenders of more than 16 years of age are entirely excluded. These provisions, we submit, will seriously interfere with the good object for which the Bill has been framed. While even in boys of 16 or 17 years' old the character only begins to be formed, according to the Bill, those of 14 years of age are excluded from the benefits of the proposed institution. In our opinion, the age at which the majority is attained should be the limit as to the age under which criminals should be confined in reformatories. At least 17 and 19 years should respectively be the limits of receiving and turning out the juvenile offenders. The attention of the Select Committee is particularly drawn to this matter, as also to the propriety of making provisions for the moral education of the youthful criminals.

BHARAT SANGSKARAK.

17. The same paper has a lengthy editorial headed, "Editorial Independence, and the Leading Newspaper." After expatiating on the duties of an editor, and the boldness which he should possess, in order to expose all abuses and to speak the truth regardless of consequences, the writer observes that true editorial courage is rare in the Native Press, and a leading newspaper is still a desideratum. The editors are rather guided by the opinion of the public than being its guides. If the subscribers desire to see Government vilified, they will readily undertake to gratify them. Some of the papers are remarkably one-sided, and keep silent on matters, the publicity of which may give offence to their constituents. Thus the *Hindoo Patriot*. Government has surely committed a grave error, if by conferring honors on the editor it had any expectation of securing the favor of the public for its acts. The *Patriot* was liked so long as it was ready to write against the Government, but now having changed its tactics, the paper is in danger of losing its popularity.

GRAMBARTA PRAKASHIKA, August 28th, 1875.

18. The *Grámbártá Prakáshiká* of the 28th August has a highly eulogistic article on Mr. Skrine, the Assistant Magistrate of Chooadanga. He has with great difficulty, and after considerable personal inconvenience

and expense, saved numbers of villages and fields of corn from inundations caused by the overflowing of the streams. Such impartial and generous officers are extremely rare.

19. Now that the station at Goalundo, says the same paper, is about to be given up, owing to the gradual encroachments of the Pudmá, Government should order the removal of the head-quarters of the sub-division to Pángshá. The proposed arrangement, if adopted, will greatly conduce to the convenience of the public. GRAMBARTA PRAKASHIKA, August 18th, 1875.

20. The *Hindu Hitoishiní* of the 28th August complains of the unsatisfactory manner in which civil justice is administered in Dacca, owing to the heavy amount of work which the Judge, assisted by only one Subordinate Judge, has to get through. The suitors are thus subjected to great inconvenience, though from no faults of these overworked officers. It is a matter of regret that Government is totally indifferent to this state of things. An additional Subordinate Judge should be posted to the district without further delay. HINDU HITOISHINI, August 28th, 1875.

21. The same paper observes that, though the new section added to the Abkaree Bill will hardly succeed in preventing the secret sale of spirituous liquors in dispensaries, other than for medicinal purposes, for with the increase of legislation, new means of evasion also are found out, still it may be expected to do some good. Intemperance will, however, never cease until Government be prepared to give up its excise revenues altogether. HINDU HITOISHINI.

22. The *Dacca Prakásh* of the 29th August is gratified to notice that Dr. Robson, the Inspector of Schools in Eastern Bengal, is gaining great popularity by his steady devotion to duty and courteous behaviour. Since his appointment to this division a new life, as it were, has been given to the Education Department of the service in this part of the country. DACCA PRAKASH, August 29th, 1875.

23. The *Sahachar* of the 30th August notes with regret that, Government seems to be indifferent to the discontent now prevailing among the people owing to loss on exchange from the fall in the value of silver. Either a gold currency should be introduced into India, or payments in England should be made in silver. It is indeed amusing to find Lord Northbrook professing his ignorance of the cause which has brought about the present depreciation in the value of the rupee. SAHACHAR, August 30th, 1875.

24. In a letter to the *Sulabha Samáchár* of the 31st August, the writer directs the attention of Government to the distress from drought prevailing in some sixty villages under sub-division Bood-Bood, in the Burdwan district. The inhabitants are mostly agriculturists, and extremely poor. Last year's famine and cyclone have left them without any food, and now agricultural operations cannot be carried on for want of rain. SULABHA SAMACHAR, August 31st, 1875.

25. In a correspondence from Ganjam, published in the *Utkal Dípiká* of the 22nd May, the writer desires to make it known to the public that in all the Oryah examinations difficult questions are put to the boys, so that they can hardly answer them. UTKAL DIPIKA, May 22nd, 1875.

26. The editor of the same journal of the 17th July requests the Commissioner of the division to attend to the success of the contemplated college at Cuttack, as it seems doubtful whether a fair measure of success will attend the proposed institution. UTKAL DIPIKA.

27. The same journal, in an article on "Municipal Market at Cuttack," observes that, the Magistrate should issue such definite orders to the police as would prevent them from oppressing the dealers in general, since the police are apt to drive away to the market any dealer that may come in contact with UTKAL DIPIKA.

them. Such conduct on the part of the police is both oppressive and unlawful, and the editor hopes that the Magistrate will at once put a stop to it by fully explaining to them the object of the institution.

UTKAL DIPIKA, July 31st, 1875.

28. The same journal of the 31st July, in an article on the "State of the Town Roads," observes as follows:—Notwithstanding the exertions of the Magistrate to maintain the roads in proper order, they have proved to be a source of serious inconvenience, during the rains in particular. The Magistrate of the district should provide sufficient means for the discharge of the surplus water; otherwise it would prove both inconvenient and unhealthy to the public.

UTKAL DIPIKA, August 14th, 1875.

29. The editor of the same paper of the 14th August, in dwelling on the miserable state of the people of Cuttack, makes the following reflections:—The towns-people are now put to extreme inconvenience owing to the prevalence of cholera and the setting in of the heavy rains this year, as well as from the exorbitant rate of assessment now going on in khas mehals. It is the latter cause which has produced far greater alarms and anxiety than the former misfortunes. The only obvious course that is likely to be adopted by the people residing in the khas mehals will be to desert the town, but in that case it will be to them more than death itself. It is only a bazaar or two that has been already assessed, and the excessively high rate of assessment presses heavily on the people, the minimum rate being Rs. 25 per beegha, while the maximum rate is Rs. 1,000 for the same extent of land. The people are at a loss to find the way to get out of such gross oppressions. It is understood that this has been done by the Commissioner and the Collector, to whom the people fear to represent their grievances, lest they should incur their displeasure. The general public is earnestly and promptly desired to memorialize the Commissioner on the subject, this being the only resource now left them.

UTKAL PUTRA, July 14th, 1875.

30. The *Utkal Putra* of the 14th July observes that, along with the diffusion of general education, it is necessary that schools of art should be established for the benefit of the people of Orissa.

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31. The editor of the same journal, in an article on Orissa Canals and Irrigation, thus concludes his remarks:—We do not require any more canals. What we have at present is quiet sufficient to answer our requirements: and if instead of laying out the vast sum of Rs. 197 lacs, already sanctioned, on the completion of Orissa canals, the sum could be reserved for the opening of the prayed-for railway line in Orissa, considerable advantages would accrue to the people; at the same time it would, no doubt, prove a source of profit to Government.

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32. The same journal, in its opening article on Khas Mehals Assessment, observes as follows:—It is more than a year since the re-settlement of khas mehals was begun, and now the survey and measurement of the khas mehal lands having come to a close, the assessment is going on in a most arbitrary and oppressive manner. In some cases a beegha has been assessed at Rs. 25, and in some cases at Rs. 50, and so on. We have always objected to such an outrageous system, and we have even represented the matter to His Honor during his visit to Cuttack. The ryots had hitherto believed that Government would never follow the arbitrary policy of the native zemindars, but unfortunately such a belief seems to be quite ill-founded. We would under such circumstances solicit, at this eleventh hour, the interposition of our paternal and gracious Government. The people now being disappointed from all sides, only look up to Government for merciful interference.

33. In an editorial column, the same paper requests Government to give the Joint-Inspector an independent position, so as to enable him to hold direct communication with the Director of Public Instruction, and to vest him with definite functions and powers. UTKAL PUTRA, July 14th, 1875.

34. The *Utkal Putra* of the 25th August, in an article on Khas Mehals Assessment, observes as follows:—There is no doubt, that the assessment in question is unbearable and extremely vexatious, and as a proof of this, the people, numbering from five to six hundred, have already made a memorial on the subject to the Commissioner of the division on the 17th instant, who has called an explanation from the Collector on the subject; but we do not know what the result will turn out. That such an assessment is indeed oppressive to the last degree will be evident from the fact of the present rate being increased to twenty-fold. Who would not think this to be an exorbitant and distressing rate? In the year 1244, the assessment jumma of the khas mehals was fixed at Rs. 2,500, but in consideration of improvements which have of late been effected in the land, and the comfortable condition of some of the residents therein, Government might be induced to raise this to Rs. 3,000 at the most, but not beyond that. We would under such circumstances solicit our long-experienced and observant Commissioner to protect the people from such oppressions. We would also in conclusion beseech Government to act in the case accord ing to the provisions of Act X of 1867. UTKAL PUTRA, August 25th, 1875.

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20	"Samáchár Chandriká ...	Ditto	Bi-weekly ...	2nd September.
21	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto	Daily ...	21st to 28th August.
22	"Sambád Púrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	Ditto ...	30th and 31st August, and 1st and 3rd September.
23	"Urdu Guide" (*in Urdu*) ...	Ditto	Weekly ...	28th August.
24	"Jám-jehán-numá" (*in Persian*).	Ditto	Ditto ...	3rd September.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

F. B.—Reg. No. 2260.

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21	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto	Daily ...	31st to 28th August.
22	"Sambád Púrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	Ditto ...	30th and 31st August, and 1st and 3rd September.
23	"Urdu Guide" (*in Urdu*) ...	Ditto	Weekly ...	28th August.
24	"Jám-jehán-numá" (*in Persian*).	Ditto	Ditto ...	3rd September.

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